Ministry of Agriculture

Plan for 2016-17

saskatchewan.ca

Government of Saskatchewan

Table of Contents

Statement from the Minister 1

Response to Government Direction 2

Operational Plan 3

Highlights 8

Financial Summary 9

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture

It is my pleasure to present the Ministry of Agriculture's Operational Plan for 2016-17.

Government Direction and Budget for 2016-17 invests in people and infrastructure to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*, and initiates a government wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible.

The 2016-17 budget for the Ministry of Agriculture is $389.8 million, including $71.2 million for strategic initiatives and $4.2 million to support agricultural events and organizations. The budget also contains $254.6 million to fund business risk management programs like Crop Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest.

This budget aims to maintain a strong agriculture and agri-food sector that meet the local and global demand for healthy, sustainably-produced food, and contributes to Saskatchewan's strong economy.

The Ministry will report on progress toward the targets laid out in this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2016-17 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on Saskatchewan's foundational strengths, investing in needed infrastructure and in vital programs and services for the people of our province. The Government has made a simple yet significant commitment – to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*. This year marks the beginning of a government-wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective, efficient way possible.

This focus will advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2016-17 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry fosters a commercially viable self-sufficient and sustainable agriculture and food sector. The Ministry encourages farmers, ranchers and communities to develop higher value-added production and processing and promotes sustainable economic development in rural Saskatchewan through better risk management.

Mission Statement

The Ministry enables a prosperous, market-driven agricultural industry through a supportive legislative framework, policies, programs and services.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: enhanced long-term growth, competitiveness and sustainability of the industry

Ministry Goal

Targeted investment in infrastructure, science and innovation

Strategy

- Work with stakeholders to identify opportunities and set priorities.
- Transition to an outcome-based regulatory framework.
- Partner with organizations to achieve Growth Plan targets.
- Create a stable business climate.

Key Actions

- In support of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth goals and objectives, implement sector driven strategies (Crops, Livestock, Irrigation and Value-Added Strategies) that increase investment in Saskatchewan, and contribute to the benefits from the growing demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.
- Collaborate with industry to improve coordination of research investments and technology transfer including project funding, research capacity and funding for on-farm demonstration of new knowledge and technologies.
- Work with stakeholders to examine infrastructure impacting competitiveness, labour and market conditions.
- Provide programs and funding to promote animal welfare, animal disease surveillance and prevention, and respond to emergency events.
- Work with industry, local governments and other ministries to ensure agricultural needs are considered in the community planning process.
- Deliver Growing Forward 2 Programming including the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, Farm Stewardship Program, Saskatchewan Lean Improvements in Manufacturing, and Farm Business Management.
- Maximize the agricultural and public benefits of Crown land through sales and leasing programs.
- Enhance provincial leadership in agriculture biosciences and value-added areas by establishing a new food centre.
- Integrate and coordinate livestock and forage research activities and establish the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.
- Support the Global Institute for Food Security and implementation of its strategic plan.

- Work with industry to ensure the Agricultural Implements Act is meeting the needs of our agricultural producers.
- Facilitate enhanced farm business management capabilities of Saskatchewan farmers through information services and extension activities.

Performance Measures

Annual crop production

A key goal of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth is to increase crop production by 10 million tonnes by 2020. In 2013, Saskatchewan producers harvested the largest crop in the province's history and surpassed the 2020 target. There are many variables that go into producing a successful crop with weather being one of the most important. The challenge for the Ministry will be working with producers and industry to sustain the growth over the long run. The Ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting the best crop management, production and protection practices to ensure that profitable crop production continues to increase in Saskatchewan.

Annual value-added revenue

Saskatchewan's agri-food exports are driven by the sale of raw commodities however, the timing is right to also expand our agriculture value-added (processing) sector and take advantage of domestic and international markets. A strong value-added industry will allow Saskatchewan to take advantage of the opportunities that come with an increasing demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre.

To meet the target of close to a 50 per cent increase in total revenue, or $6.0 billion by 2020, processing of all crop commodities will need to occur. In order to reach this target the Ministry developed an Agriculture Value-Added Strategy to capture economic value beyond primary production through attracting investment, developing infrastructure and creating new knowledge and opportunities. It is anticipated that the target for increased revenue will send a compelling signal to industry, the research community and other governments that the value-added sector has significant growth opportunities and will be an important contributor to the success of Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth.

Annual livestock sector revenue

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth calls for significant expansion of the livestock herd and livestock feeding. Significant global population growth is anticipated over the next 30 years. Some of the countries with the fastest growth rates are also expected to experience significant increases in income which is anticipated to result in increased demand for meat protein. Saskatchewan has 21 million acres of pasture and forage land well suited for livestock production. This provides an excellent opportunity for Saskatchewan to supply this growing demand.

The target for the livestock industry is to exceed $2.0 billion in annual farm cash receipts by 2020. This target was already exceeded in 2014, as higher market prices led to the industry achieving $2.7 billion in farm cash receipts. The Ministry will continue to emphasize the importance of adopting the best livestock management, production and biosecurity practices to achieve increased livestock production in Saskatchewan.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: enhanced trade advocacy

Ministry Goal

Support industry to enhance trade in priority markets

Strategy

- Develop and implement trade strategies for key agriculture markets.
- Collaborate with partners, including industry, to access target markets.
- Influence federal trade policy to reflect Saskatchewan priorities.

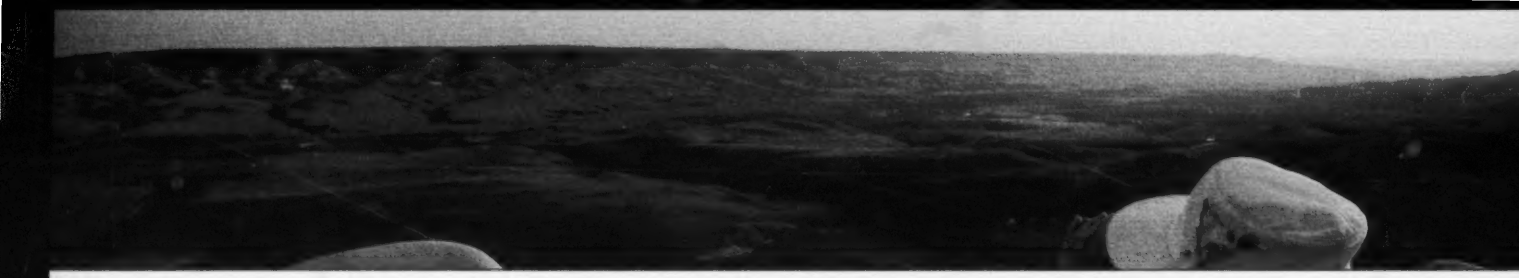
Key Actions

- Provide timely and accurate information to industry when trade barriers are a result of production methods, industry practices, pests or pesticides.
- Work with industry to promote Saskatchewan products through the Market Development Program, collaborate on incoming and outgoing missions, and provide services and undertake projects that increase industry's capacity to market Saskatchewan products.
- Work with industry and the federal government to pursue Saskatchewan's export interests on market access issues and in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

Performance Measures

Value of agri-food exports

Under the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth, the province's agri-food exports target is $15.0 billion by 2020. This target was exceeded in 2015, as agri-food exports reached a record new height of $15.3 billion. With the forecast growth in world populations and income levels, global demand for food and agricultural-related goods is anticipated to increase. The Ministry will continue to support the sector to take advantage of these emerging opportunities by expanding market presence, influencing federal trade negotiations and collaborating with the private sector.



Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: enhanced client service

Ministry Goal

Efficiently develop and deliver effective programs and services

Strategy

- Implement modern service delivery tools and techniques.
- Work with clients and stakeholders to develop, evaluate and enhance programs, services and legislation.
- Implement service standards throughout the Ministry.

Key Actions

- Provide support and programming to patron groups of transitioning federal community pastures.
- Develop and implement online accessibility strategies for public access of Crown agricultural lands.
- Develop and implement a digital strategy that contains new ways of offering Ministry services, including online delivery, to clients.

Performance Measures

Percentage of clients satisfied with programs and services

The goal of the Ministry is for 75 per cent of all producers surveyed to be satisfied with the Ministry of Agriculture by 2017. The Ministry offers many programs and services designed to assist farmers and ranchers, including a wide variety of publications (both print and electronic), customer service telephone lines and specialist services. Technological advancements in areas such as social media, smart phones, tablets and online transacting are happening at a rapid pace. As technology changes, the Ministry will continue to update its service and information delivery systems to ensure clients' needs are being met, and programs and services are supportive of their agricultural operations.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: improved public trust and understanding of agriculture

Ministry Goal

Partner to promote the benefits of agriculture

Strategy

- Promote agricultural learning in the Saskatchewan educational system.
- Implement a targeted agriculture awareness strategy.
- Promote careers in the agriculture and food sector to youth.
- Ensure social license is a priority nationally.

Key Actions

- Promote the sustainability of agriculture.
- Promote career opportunities in the agriculture industry to Saskatchewan youth.
- Foster the development of strategic partnerships with industry, educational institutions and governments that will secure the agriculture sector's social licence to operate.

Performance Measures

Public understanding of agriculture as measured by the percentage of Saskatchewan residents with a positive perception of agriculture.

The goal of the Ministry is to ensure that 85 per cent of Saskatchewan residents have a positive perception of agriculture. Agriculture has and will continue to play a critical role in Saskatchewan's growth and identity. Today, agriculture is a progressive, modern and market driven Saskatchewan industry, yet the average citizen is removed from direct food production. Therefore, it is often sensational media stories that influence the public's opinion of the agriculture industry, and as a result, the public is liable to be exposed to information that may be inaccurate or biased.

The Ministry will continue to provide factual information about the importance, relevance and sustainability of the province's agricultural industry in order to earn social licence. Efforts directed at youth will provide education on the science of agriculture, as well as the multitude of diverse career and entrepreneurial opportunities the sector offers.

Highlights

The following are key announcements being made in the 2016-17 Budget:

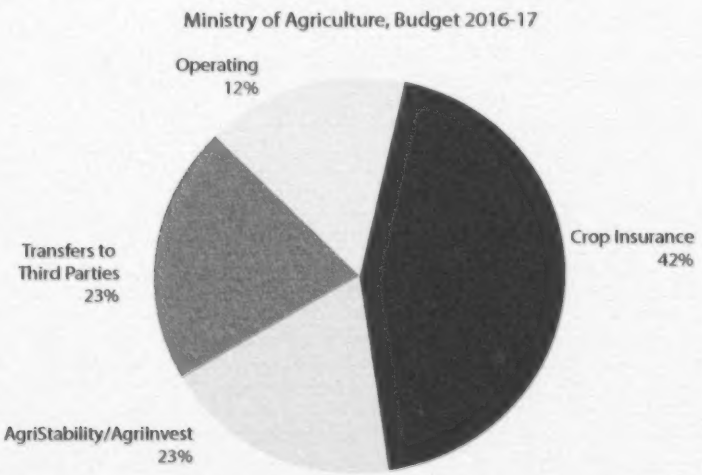
- Provide $254.6 million to fully fund the Province's 40 per cent share of business risk management programs. This includes funding for crop insurance, as well as fully funding AgriStability and AgriInvest.
- Provide $26.8 million to support agriculture research and development, including $2.0 million in funding for the Global Institute for Food Security.
- $4.2 million for third-party grants to a variety of agricultural organizations to develop and support the industry.
- A $2.0 million investment to complete the modernization of the Crown Land Management System.
- $17.2 million for the 2015 Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program to promote the purchase of Crown land.
- $71.2 million in Growing Forward 2 funding for the areas of:
  - Innovation and research;
  - Environmental farm planning;
  - Farm business management;
  - Rural water infrastructure;
  - Food safety and plant/animal health;
  - Value-added business development;
  - Agriculture awareness; and
  - Trade and market development.

Financial Summary

2016-17 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	11,256
Industry Assistance	7,376
Land Management	23,465
Policy and Planning	3,080
Research and Technology	26,806
Regional Services	39,840
Financial Programs	24,246
Business Risk Management	254,640
Ministry Operations Appropriation	**390,709**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(2,000)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	1,058
Total Expense	**389,767**

FTE Staff Complement	392.4

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/agriculture